

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1, 8, 9, and 15, and cancel claims 4 and 11, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A viral agent comprising a recombinant Marek's disease virus CVI988/X stably transformed with a foreign DNA construct which comprises a long terminal repeat sequence of a reticuloendotheliosis virus, wherein said viral agent is effective to elicit an immune response in a chicken to Marek's disease virus without causing a significant degree of pathogenicity in said chicken, and further wherein said long terminal repeat sequence is inserted upstream of the ICP4 gene of said Marek's disease virus.

2. (original) The viral agent of claim 1 wherein said long terminal repeat sequence comprises Sequence ID No. 2.

3. (original) The viral agent of claim 1 wherein said long terminal repeat sequence comprises a *Pac* I excised DNA segment from a Marek's disease virus having all of the identifying characteristics of strain ATCC PTA-4945.

4. (canceled).

5. (original) The viral agent of claim 1 comprising a Marek's disease virus having all of the identifying characteristics of strain ATCC PTA-4945.

6. (original) The viral agent of claim 1 wherein said recombinant Marek's disease virus is viable.

7. (original) The viral agent of claim 1 wherein said Marek's disease virus is cell associated.

8. (currently amended) A vaccine comprising the viral agent of claim 1 in an amount effective to elicit ~~an~~ a protective immune response in a chicken to Marek's disease virus and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9. (currently amended) A method for protecting a chicken against Marek's disease comprising inoculating said chicken with a vaccine comprising a viral agent in an amount effective to elicit ~~an~~ a protective immune response in a chicken to Marek's disease virus and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein said viral agent comprises a recombinant Marek's disease virus CVI988/X transformed with a foreign DNA construct

which comprises a long terminal repeat sequence of a reticuloendotheliosis virus and said long terminal repeat is inserted upstream of the ICP4 gene of said Marek's disease virus, and further wherein said viral agent is effective to elicit an a protective immune response in a chicken to Marek's disease virus without causing a significant degree of pathogenicity in said chicken.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said long terminal repeat sequence comprises a *Pac* I excised DNA segment from a Marek's disease virus having all of the identifying characteristics of strain ATCC PTA-4945.

11. (canceled).

12. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said viral agent comprises a Marek's disease virus having all of the identifying characteristics of strain ATCC PTA-4945.

13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said viral agent is viable.

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14. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said vaccine is cell associated.

15. (currently amended) A method of making a viral agent effective for protecting a chicken against Marek's disease comprising transforming a Marek's disease virus strain CVI988 with a foreign DNA construct which comprises a long terminal repeat sequence of a reticuloendotheliosis virus, and further wherein said long terminal repeat is inserted upstream of the ICP4 gene of said Marek's disease virus.